

[11th March 1921]

Women teachers in Vizagapatam.

411 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH MAHASAYO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education—

(a) to state whether women teachers who possess no knowledge of Telugu have been appointed to teach drawing, kindergarten and other subjects in the Queen Mary's High School, Vizagapatam; and

(b) if the Government cannot replace them by teachers whose vernacular is Telugu.

A.—The present drawing teacher and the kindergarten mistress, who are trained, are both Indians and their vernacular is Telugu.

Sista karanas in the Presidency.

412 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHANA RATH MAHASAYO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state whether—

(a) it is a fact that the Sista karanas of this Presidency are treated by the Government as Telugus;

(b) the Sista karanas have made representations to the Government against their inclusion in the category of the Telugus;

(c) the Oriyas have made representation to the Government that the Sista karanas are Oriyas and should be treated as such; and

(d) in view of such representations the Government cannot revoke G.O. No. 215, Home (Education), dated 14th February 1920, and place them on a par with the other Oriyas of this Presidency.

A.—(a) Sista karanas who do not speak Oriya are not classed as Oriyas for the purpose of the Madras Educational Rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Silting up of the Gōdāvari anicut.

413 Q.—Mr. A. SUBBARAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Revenue to state whether it is a fact that the depth of water near the Gōdāvari anicut is steadily decreasing and that the river is getting silted up above the anicut; if so, to state whether any steps are being taken to prevent it.

A.—The Government is not aware that any general silting up of the Gōdāvari bed above the anicut is now going on.

Mr. G. VANDANAM:—"Will the Government be pleased to institute enquiries?"

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"Government have no objection."

II*The Madras Cattle Disease Act Amendment Bill.*

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, the Bill I have the honour to move to be read in the Council to-day is a very small amendment Bill. The Madras Cattle Disease Act imposes on the hospital pound-keeper an obligatory duty under section 6 requiring the owner of an animal or the

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person in charge thereof to place it in the hospital pound, and under section 15 himself to seize and impound an animal wherever it is found to be suffering from a contagious or infectious disease. This has been found to be impracticable. When recently in Madras and certain other places rinderpest broke out in an epidemic form, the animals infected were found to be so many that the hospital pound-keeper found it impossible to perform this duty. For one thing there were too many animals for one man and then there was also the question of finding space and buildings for housing these animals that were infected with this disease. Experience has also shown that in diseases like rinderpest it was better to keep these animals where they were, for, in the act of movement it was found that they were spreading contagion. It is therefore thought possible and reasonable to change the law by converting this obligatory duty into one of discretion.

"Honourable members will find that section 6 says 'if the keeper of the hospital-pound should be of opinion that the animal has any contagious or infectious disease, he shall thereupon require the owner of the animal, or the person in charge thereof to place it in the hospital pound, and if necessary, shall require the owner, or the person in charge, to take such measures as he may direct for disinfecting the shed or other place in which the said animal may have been kept.' The amendment now before the House involved in this Bill is that the word 'shall' may be substituted by the word 'may'.

"Similarly in section 15 which runs as follows:—'In any district or part of a district in which this Act is in force it shall be the duty of all hospital pound-keepers . . . to seize and impound all animals suffering from contagious or infectious diseases'—it is proposed to remove the words 'it shall be the duty of all hospital pound-keepers' and replace it when it will read 'all hospital pound-keepers may seize and impound all animals.' This is the main change that is sought to be made in the Act.

"Honourable members will also find that there is a second clause in section 6 which runs 'if necessary shall require the owner or the person in charge to take such measures as he may direct for disinfecting the shed or other place in which the said animal may have been kept.' That portion is now proposed to be deleted, because there is a provision corresponding to that in section 8 which runs as follows:—'Every keeper of a hospital-pound . . . shall have power within his range to cause to be cleansed and disinfected in any manner in which he may think proper, any premises in which any animal labouring under any contagious or infectious disease has been or may be and to cause to be disinfected, etc.' So that the power that may be mistaken as having been taken away under section 6 is to be found in section 8. And this change therefore is only a matter of convenience.

"There is only one other change and that is more or less consequential. Certain officers of the Government were invested with the authority of appointing certain persons as hospital pound-keepers. The district magistrate is the officer in the mufassal. The president of the corporation is the officer in the city of Madras; but the duties of the president are now performed by the 'commissioner of the corporation' and so wherever the words 'president and the municipal commissioner' occur in this Act it is proposed to substitute the words 'the commissioner of the corporation.' These are all the changes that are now sought to be made in the Act. It will be noticed by the honourable members that these changes are very minor and do not touch the main principle of the Bill. I therefore submit to the House that this may be read."

[The Hon'ble Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

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The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I second it."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I do not certainly rise to oppose this motion. I have only a slight suggestion to make. In section 15, as it is now drafted, as also in the existing section, it is stated that in any district or part of a district in which this Act remains in force, the hospital pound-keepers or police officers, not below the rank of a head constable, and certain other persons are empowered to impound animals. In 1866 when the existing Act was passed, head constables were, I believe, officers in charge of stations and they were also empowered to investigate cases, so that they were men of some status. Now, apparently the head constables are no longer in charge of station-houses and they are also not entrusted with the investigation of crimes. It is now the sub-inspector that is in charge of a station-house. I hope therefore that the Honourable the mover of the resolution would substitute sub-inspectors in place of head constables in this section. Apparently this point did not suggest itself to his mind."

Mr. C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"According to section 6 of the Act which is now proposed to be amended, the pound-keeper shall get the house or place where the animal has been lodged disinfected and according to the provisions of section 8, he shall have power to have the place disinfected. There is a material difference between the two provisions. In the first provision it is compulsory on the part of the pound-keeper to have the place disinfected and according to the provisions of section 8 it is only left to his discretion. Now if the Act is to be amended as proposed, this obligatory nature on the part of the pound-keeper to have the place disinfected will be removed. How far it is desirable and how far experts have advised the Hon'ble the Minister to remove that obligatory duty on the part of the pound keeper is not explained. It must always be the duty of the pound-keeper to have the place disinfected and therefore I think we shall not at all move in the right direction in the matter, if we remove the obligation to disinfect the houses where the animals were living."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I beg to support the statement made by the last speaker that if the proposal in the Bill is merely to empower the pound-keeper to remove the animal at his discretion and to leave the infected premises exactly as they were, the very object of the removal of these animals to a pound will be defeated and therefore I am under the impression that the Act which is now sought to be amended should provide simultaneously for disinfection along with preventive action which has been imposed upon the pound-keeper. That is one matter. Apart from it, Sir, I should like to know whether in a matter of this kind we are quite clear as to what we are doing. The Honourable Member stated that the animals are too many in some cases and it is now proposed to empower the pound-keeper to exercise his discretion to impound only animals to suit the capacity of the pound. This is perfectly true. I come from a district where large numbers of cattle are infected with rinderpest and it has been found that these veterinary sub-assistants who go about the country for inoculation find it difficult to cope with their work. Such being the case it seems to me that merely taking away the compulsory character and empowering the pound-keeper only to impound a few animals cannot do much good. A wider policy is certainly required and while I do not seek to oppose this motion I must bring these facts to the notice of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill. I should also like to know how many hospital pounds there are in this Presidency. So far as I know there are none in my part of the country."

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The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I think there cannot be much objection to the suggestion made by my honourable friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar, but I do not wish to commit myself to any course as I propose that this should go before a Select Committee. The other suggestions made also by my honourable friends for Vizagapatam and Kistna can be considered by the committee that is to be appointed. I only wish to make it clear that in removing this obligatory duty on the part of the hospital pound-keeper we thought we were reducing the rigour of the rules. If, however, honourable members are prepared and this House is prepared to enforce it fully and are also prepared to contribute and vote for the large sums of money that may be necessary both for the staff and housing, I think Government would surely consider their suggestions. I do not know whether after a reconsideration these honourable members would stick to their own opinion. Anyway they would be at liberty to place their views before the Joint Committee on which I hope most of these gentlemen would serve."

The motion to read the Amendment Bill in Council was put and agreed to. The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I now propose that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR seconded the motion.

The motion that the Bill be referred to a select committee was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I do not think, Sir, that a large committee is necessary. I move that the Select Committee should consist of the following members :—

- (1) Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar,
- (2) Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro,
- (3) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur,
- (4) Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju,
- (5) Mr. K. Gopalakrishnayya,
- (6) Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar,
- (7) The Hon'ble the Advocate-General, and
- (8) The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur K. V. Reddi Nayudu (ex-officio)."

Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai seconded the motion.

The motion was put and agreed to.

III

Amendments to Standing Orders.

Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR (*Advocate-General*) :—"Mr. President, I desire to present under Standing Orders 41 and 43 the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider certain proposed amendments to the Standing Orders which were put forward by the Hon'ble the Law-Member and by the honourable the member for Nellore. The Select Committee has made its report and as will be observed from it, it is unanimous excepting for a minute of dissent by the honourable member from Nellore in regard to two matters. I believe, I have his authority for saying that on one of these two matters there is not likely to be any controversy, that is with reference to the omission of the word defamatory. The other matter is pressed by the honourable member for Nellore and I do not think that at this stage I shall go into the matter in detail. The report speaks for itself and at the present moment I merely present this report and I trust that further discussion will take place later."